

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

Hitler's Spring Drive Into Balkans Follows Usual Pattern of Nazi 'Blitz' As Greeks and Yugoslavs Fall Back; Axis Powers Register African Gains

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



EL AGHEILA, LIBYA.—Beyond this Nazi armored tank waves a swastika from a building in this Libyan coastal town. Since the Nazis joined the Italian troops in the Libyan sector previous sensational successes by the British have been wiped out and much territory formerly won is now in axis hands.

BALKANS; Nazi Power

The sudden onslaught of the Nazi troops on five fronts against Yugoslavia and Greece came with terrifying swiftness and in the early days of the conflict it was evident that a delaying action was the most that the Greeks could offer, and that the Yugoslavs, prepared mentally, but unprepared physically to resist, could do little but harass the advance of the invader.

Hungarian troops were also ordered to enter Yugoslavian territory separated from Hungary after the war of 1914-1918.

Events moved swiftly in those first few days. Immediately the city of Belgrade, perilously close to the border, and in the center of a plain, was declared an "open city" and that the Yugoslavs would not defend it.

However, the first act of the Nazi bombers was to deliver a series of assaults on Belgrade, closely followed by similar attacks on Sarajevo, Nis, Zagreb and other points of military importance to the invading army.

The attack on Belgrade may or may not have put the city entirely hors du combat, but the immediate effect was to shut off all communication with the outside world, and that caused the reports of the early phases of the new war to be fragmentary and conflicting to the utmost degree.

One heard that the Yugoslavs were invading neighboring countries, had taken Fiume, were bombing Sofia—and in the same breath the Germans claimed the capture of Nis, the razing of Belgrade, the cutting of vital railroad lines.

Only the British reports seemed to carry conviction, together with those from Athens. The former predicted a general withdrawal, and the latter told how that withdrawal was being carried out.

But from the start it had been expected by this country that Salonika would be defended, and that the British had 150,000 to 200,000 troops in that general neighborhood, and were prepared to make a serious defense of the port.

Then the British announced that Salonika might fall, and gave rise to the general belief that perhaps the British forces were not so numerous or so strong as at first stated.

Suddenly came the word that the British had only 60,000 to 90,000 troops on the scene, and that they were in the second line of defense, "ready to veer to east or west as the situation demanded."

This was the answer to the dispatches of the first few days, which did not reveal the British in contact with the enemy at any point. They were, in this report, placed in the vicinity of Katerine, which put them somewhat in the center, between two main forces of Greeks.

Closely following this dispatch came a report from Berlin claiming that their troops had entered Salonika, and from Athens itself came the following terse, yet disquieting report:

"The German blitz has split Greek forces in two with a wedge driven down west of Salonika, trapping uncounted thousands of troops defending the line of the Truma river."

Right on the heels of this report, unpleasant to Americans who were hoping that the Nazi attack on northern Greece might be halted, came the word from London "German troops have entered Salonika following."

'Royal' Eviction



OAKLAND, CALIF.—Otto de Bourbon Hapsburg, 65, who claims to be a pretender to the French throne; his daughter, 32, and two sons, 41 and 40, according to reports, were evicted from their house in Oakland for alleged non-payment of rent. Otto Leopold, the elder son, is shown above carrying part of his personal belongings.

STRIKES: New Turn

Strike news continued sensational, but took somewhat a turn for the better, with the Dykstra Mediation board settling the Allis-Chalmers strike and making headway both on the threatened walkout against U. S. Steel and the big Ford strike at River Rouge.

But the news, while somewhat better from the standpoint of the national defense, was still disquieting enough. Most sensational of the stories was the claim that C.I.O. chiefs had been canvassing local unions throughout the United States seeking to find what sentiment, if any, there was for a general strike if the Bridges deportation move should be carried out.

The Bridges case was in the hearing stage when this move was uncovered in Washington when Sidney Hillman of O.P.M. was asked by a house committee investigating the national defense program to investigate the report.

Mr. Hillman expressed surprise at the question and said he did not believe that any such move was being carried out. Mr. Hillman said that Philip Murray, president of the C.I.O. and chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing committee, would not tolerate a strike against the defense program.

This report by Mr. Hillman came just one day after Mr. Murray had made a surprise visit to the White House at the invitation of President Roosevelt, and then had made a flying trip to Detroit, and later had announced that the projected strike against U. S. Steel would be held in abeyance for a time, ostensibly to permit work by mediators and conciliators to avert the strike entirely.

The report came from a mediator in New York that part of the coal strike difficulties had been settled. He said that the reopening of other mines had been delayed, and apparently the main difficulty was a difference in attitude between Northern and Southern Appalachian mine operators concerning the demands of the United Mine Workers.

The mediator said: "We are trying desperately to effect a complete accord and to stabilize this backbone industry for a period of two years." He also said that the schism between the two geographical portions of the operators group was causing the chief difficulty.

In the meantime there were signs that the mediation efforts in the Ford strike were bearing fruit, when Governor Van Wagoner of Michigan wired President Roosevelt as follows:

"Please do not approve certification of the Ford strike to the Defense Mediation Board before I have talked with you. I am in conference now with Philip Murray and James Dewey (the conciliator)."

This made it look, at least for the moment, as though some settlement of the dispute, which has tied up \$155,000,000 in defense material, might be at hand.

SHIP AID: On Move

The ships-for-Britain end of the aid law was well on the move, with the President formally seeking from congress the right to take possession of the 36 Danish merchantmen now in American waters.

Mr. Roosevelt said his advisers were convinced they had every right to take over the German and Italian ships, regardless of the protests of the two Axis governments.

It was plain from the White House comment that the government proposed to combine the three groups of ships into one fleet, and in time to use the whole fleet in defense transport.

The government will go far, it was believed, to keep this line of transport open and under way until deliveries begin on the 950 new merchant ships now being constructed.

In addition, at the same time, the British announced that this country is turning over to them 10 United States coast guard cutters for aid in the war against Nazi subs.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

Washington, D. C.

EGGS AND STEEL

The senate could learn a lot from the house about brevity in public address. Members of the house have learned to express themselves without taking two hours—in fact, some of the best speeches last for only one minute.

The other day Congressman William L. Nelson of Missouri rose in the house and said, "Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for one minute." Then he delivered himself of the following, within exactly 60 seconds. The gavel fell in the midst of applause from the other congressmen:

"Mr. Speaker, headlines and footnotes are always interesting and thought-provoking. In the metropolitan press I note such headlines as these:

Indiana Standard Clears \$33,597,342.

Record Breaking Backlog by Republic Steel.

\$20,076,739 Earned by Eastman Kodak.

General Motors has Sales Record with \$1,794,936,640 in 1940.

Anaconda Copper Earns \$35,052,699.

United States Steel Reports 26 Per Cent Business Rise.

And so on.

"Then, in contrast, I notice this footnote in a country weekly:

"Eggs, strictly fresh, 14 to 15 cents a dozen."

LABOR SHORTAGE

A totally different labor problem than strikes gives increasing worry to defense chiefs. Some even consider it more serious—eventually—than disputes between management and unions.

It is the problem of securing trained workers for vital defense occupations.

The Army-Navy Munitions board has just completed a confidential report listing 661 occupations in which serious labor shortages are likely soon. The report warns that the tremendous increase in production, as high as 60 per cent in some industries, is certain to aggravate the problem.

The training program of the National Youth administration and others will afford some relief, but the labor shortage is so urgent that authorities have quietly taken steps to cull skilled workmen out of the draft.

Over 500,000 men are slated to be called to the colors by July 1. And although the Selective Service law bars "group deferments" so desperate is the need for trained labor that draft boards have been advised to exercise the greatest care in inducting certain groups.

Among these are experienced merchant seamen, also apprentices in highly skilled occupations—lens grinders, toolmakers, chemists, aircraft mechanics, and other crafts which the Army-Navy Munitions board calls "occupations that have special significance in the national defense program."

AMERICAN RUBBER

When a government bureau moves fast, that's news. A bureau of the department of agriculture, beginning last August, has completed a survey of potential rubber production in 11 Latin-American countries and is now moving into two more.

But more important than speed, the survey is the first step in an important long-range plan to make this country independent of East Indian sources for rubber, and increase trade between the Americas. Earlier this year, congress appropriated \$500,000 to the department of agriculture "to develop rubber production."

First objective is to establish two permanent experimental stations, one for Central America, the other for South America. It is almost certain that they will be located in Costa Rica and Brazil.

Brazil originally produced most of the world's rubber, but the seeds were smuggled out of the country by the British, who set up their own rubber plantations in Malaya. The present drive is to restore to Latin America her birthright in this essential product.

THRILLED A FARMER

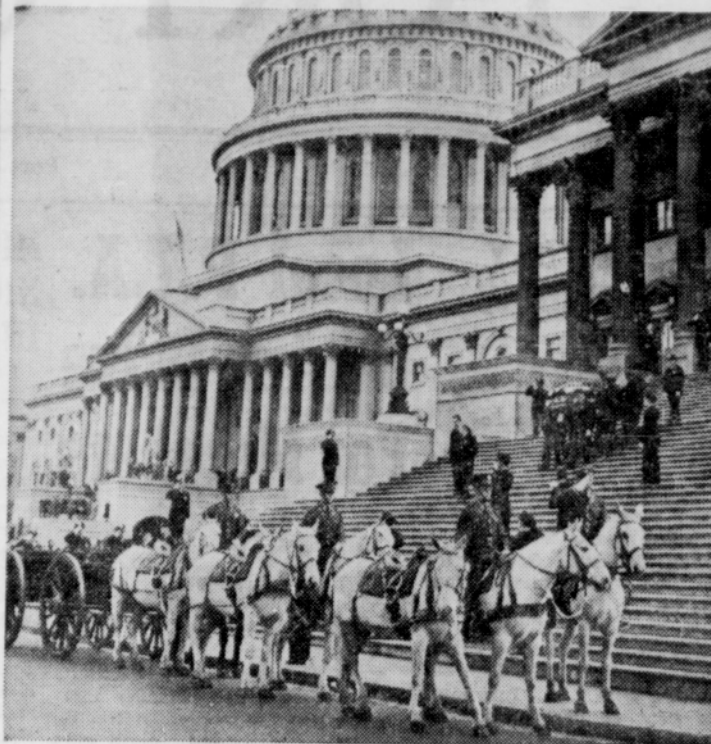
A home town farmer friend was kidding homely Claude Wickard, secretary of agriculture, about sitting next to Clark Gable at the President's defense "fireside chat." "You know, Claude," the friend said, "there are a lot of young ladies back in Indiana whose hearts fluttered when they heard you were palming around with a movie star." "Well," replied Wickard ruefully, "that's just about the closest I ever came to getting the ladies excited."

MERRY-GO-ROUND

In the caste-bound British navy enlisted men can rise to the rank of lieutenant commander, but the U. S. navy does not permit enlisted men to take examinations for permanent commissions except in one branch—the supply section.

Dr. George A. Buttrick, former president of the Federal Council of Churches and a supporter of Herbert Hoover's plan to feed Nazi-occupied Europe, claims that Secretary of State Hull also approves the idea.

Final Tribute to Dean of Hill



The body of Sen. Morris Sheppard (D), of Texas, being carried from the flower-banked senate chamber, where it was placed on a caisson in a military procession to Union station, en route to Texarkana, Texas. Funeral services were held at Texarkana, where the dean of congress and the author of prohibition lived.

Proud Skipper



A proud commander is Capt. Olaf N. Hustvedt, shown standing beneath one of his 16-inch gun turrets during the commissioning ceremonies of the new battleship, "North Carolina," at New York Navy yard. The ship carries nine 16-inch rifles.

Italian Crew Arrives in New York



Italian seamen give the fascist salute from the deck of a U. S. troop transport, the "Leonard Wood," on arrival in New York, after being taken off the steamship Conte Biancamano, luxury liner of Italy, which was taken over by the United States at Panama. U. S. troops are guarding the prisoners.

Roosevelt Romance



James Roosevelt, the President's eldest son, and Romelle Schneider are shown applying for their marriage license at the Los Angeles marriage license bureau.

Strikers Make Use of Satire



The coffin represents the Allis-Chalmers company. It is perched on a junk wagon, and a striker, wearing a gas mask, gives a satirical address showing the connection. This was one of the lighter angles of the Allis-Chalmers strike in Milwaukee, Wis., as recorded by the News of the Day Newsreel.

Inspects Shelters



Mrs. Anthony Drexel Biddle, wife of the United States ambassador to the European governments in exile, in England, shown while inspecting some British bomb shelters in London. Mrs. Biddle is studying the women's services during the great war.

Trailers for Defense Workers



The first of 2,000 trailers purchased by the Farm Security administration with funds from the \$5,000,000 urgent deficiency appropriation voted by congress to provide temporary shelter for homeless defense workers are shown leaving the nation's capital for Wilmington, N. C. They will be used to house defense shipyard workers.

U. S.-Mexico Pact



Sumner Welles (left) and Mexican Ambassador Senor Dr. Najera signing mutual defense pact giving the U. S. the right to use Mexican air bases, and vice versa.

HIGHLIGHTS... in the news

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—A Negro stole a car, and the police knew the car was gone, and figured he'd soon run out of gas and abandon it. But the car kept moving, and was reported here, there, everywhere. They couldn't figure where he was getting "gas" money. They found Uncle Sam was providing. The man had found a WPA courtesy card in the car and was using it to get credit—to buy gas.

NORFOLK, Va.—Coast guardsmen were dragging waters off the Eastern Shore of Virginia, seeking wreckage of a huge patrol bomber thought to have carried 10 navy men in its crew to their deaths. Bodies of some of the crew had been found, and others were sought. The men were making a simple transfer flight when the accident happened. The accident was being investigated by naval authorities.